disposed of the petitions with directions to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner to grant eligible benefits to the petitioners. However, the RPFC, Kerala has appealed before the Division Bench against the directions of Single Bench saying that the decision was not in accordance with the existing provisions of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. The matter is *sub judice*.

(d) The Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is administered by Employees Provident Fund Organisation. It is not operated by the State Government.

**I.L.O.'s help for poverty alleviation**

2658. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country has sought the help of the International Labour Organisation in rooting out poverty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ILO's response to the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

**Progress regarding eradication of child labour**

†2659. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have written any letter to the Chief Ministers of such States where the child labour is prevalent emphasizing the need of holding regular discussion to monitor the constant progress with regard to abolition of the child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the State Government's reaction in this regard and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to eradicate this social evil;

(d) whether Government have received any relevant programme from the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, child labour is likely to be eradicated from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The then Union Labour Minister *vide* d.o. letter dated 19.02.2000 had written to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs for taking decisive and convergent action to release children from work and to secure their total rehabilitation—physical, economic and psychological by pooling resources from a variety of sources and integrating them imaginatively and skillfully.

(c) Under the National Policy for elimination of child labour, all State Governments have committed themselves to eliminate all forms of child labour and their rehabilitation.

(d) The Government has already been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn form work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Volunatry Organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children, on the recommendation of the State Government.

(e) The Government would be making attempts to eliminate child labour from hazardous occuptations by the end of the Tenth Plan and progressively move towards elimination of child labour in all its forms in the coming years.

**Funds for child labour**

2660. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a 13-year old Supreme Court's directive for setting up a fund for the children working in hazardous conditions, is